



**Town Shellfish Crier
September 30, 2020**

1. Federal Channel Dredging Begins tomorrow, Thursday, October 1.

Here is a link to a [document](#) and maps with details about Wellfleet's dredging projects. Dredging takes place 24/7, seven days/week. Dredging is scheduled to begin at the 12 can and work its way in, but things can change. The Harbormasters are working with the U.S. Coast Guard to move the Aids to Navigation, so they are out of the way of dredging work. Details will be broadcast on Channel 22 every day – and you can go to the Harbormasters with any questions. Please use care and plan your vessel comings and goings in the channel accordingly.

2. Reminder of the Contaminated Shellfish Closure at Indian Neck Recreational-Only Area

We have received a few calls over the past week regarding the contaminated shellfish closure at Indian Neck. Only the portion of the intertidal area closest to the breakwater jetty is closed. One boundary is the jetty, designating the Northern closure line. The other closure line is the row of pink buoys from the candy-striped pole to the left of the entrance from the Indian Neck parking lot out to the green can offshore. This line forms the Southern closure line. All intertidal areas to the South of this line of pink buoys (left if you are facing the water) are open, all the way down to the standard area boundary, designated by the Southern Burton Baker Landing groin.

Signage has been present at all three Indian Neck landings (parking lot, middle pass and Burton Baker beach) since the closure was initiated back in July. Please read these signs as they describe the state-run program we are participating in to bring additional clams to our waters, as well as the closure boundaries. These clams will be tested by the state, and the area will re-open on June 1, 2021. Chipman's Cove was also stocked with these clams and testing should be back from the state within a week, so plenty of time before the Chipman's opening on Sunday, October 25.

3. Recreational Shellfishing Expands to South Wellfleet, Seven Days/Week Tomorrow, October 1

On October 1, all areas in South Wellfleet will open to the harvesting of shellfish from the Indian Neck recreational-only area to Lieutenant's Island. Shellfishing will also then be allowed seven days a week. Catch limits remain the same at a peck (a quarter bushel or a 10-quart wire basket) per permitholder per week. Please measure your oysters; they have to be three inches long. Clams need to be one inch across the hinge. The new week begins on Sundays. Also, please be aware that some areas that open on October 1 contain commercial shellfish farming operations. Please avoid harvesting in or around these farms.

You can find a map of the harvesting areas at this link: https://www.wellfleet-ma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf5166/f/file/file/shellfish_areas_new_rec_map_2017.pdf

You can also find a list of directions to a sampling of areas at this link: <https://www.wellfleet-ma.gov/shellfish-department/pages/directions-to-shellfishing-areas>

The Shellfish Regulations are also a good source of information, and can be found at this link: https://www.wellfleet-ma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf5166/f/uploads/shellfishing_policy_and_regulations_01-14-2020_0.pdf

Non-Commercial Regulations are in Section 5.

4. Bay Scallop Season Opens Tomorrow, October 1, through March 31

Bay scallops are tricky to measure. It is not their size, but rather the presence of a well-defined, raised annual growth ring. You should be able to feel the raised ring with your fingertip or your fingernail as you drag it across the top of the shell. Scientific studies have found that bay scallops without a raised annual growth ring have not spawned, but will spawn at least once, typically in May, and perhaps twice, again in September, of the following year. A raised annual growth ring indicates that the bay scallop has had a chance to spawn, thereby contributing to future populations of bay scallops in our harbor. Those are the ones you want to harvest for your table!

Contact Nancy at nancy.civetta@wellfleet-ma.gov or 508-349-0325 with ideas on how the Shellfish Department can help or improve your shellfishing experience – or to learn more. Thank you!

Nancy Civetta
Shellfish Constable

John Mankevetch
Assistant Shellfish Constable

Chris Manulla / Drew Ryan
Deputy Shellfish Constables